Kms. but the ELO Office was closed in Imphal where the length of National Highways is more than 900 Kms. ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would not re-open the ELO Offices, for the States like Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is an ELO Office at Shillong looking after 519 Km of National Highways in Meghalaya which are with the State PWD. In Manipur, the total length of National Highways with the State PWD is only 280 Km. This does not justify the need for an ELO Office at Imphal.

(c) The works on National Highways entrusted to State PWD of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland are monitored by R.O. Office Guwahati. The National Highways in Tripura are entrusted to BRO. Presently there is no proposal to open ELO Offices in Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland.

Number of vehicles on roads

4255. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vehicles on roads in 1950 and in 1998; and

(b) the measures being taken to encourage Private Capital in the road sector to match the growth of vehicles on road ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL(RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) (a) The total number of registered motor vehicles in India in 1950-51 and 1997-98 were 3,06,000 and 4,09,39,000 respectively.

(b) A number of facilitating measures have already been taken by the Government to promote private sector participation in the development and maintenance of National Highways. It includes various incentives in the form of tax concession, duty free import of specified equipment, capital grant, permitting Foreign Direct Investment and external commercial borrowings.